

Administrator's Update for 2/19/14

By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

We will be holding the next Charlotte County Government Academy at the end of March. This program is a unique opportunity to learn about the departments under the Board of County Commissioners. Participants will learn about the many county programs and services through presentations by staff at four county building locations. There will be ample opportunities to ask questions and gather information.

Government Academy is a free program offered once a year. This year the academy will be held on two consecutive Wednesdays, March 26 and April 2, from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. each day. Applications are available in the county libraries and in the lobbies of most county buildings, as well as on our website—visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click the Academy banner. The deadline to apply is March 7. For more information call 941.743.1944.

Local Option Sales Tax Survey online

A survey is available online for public input on the one percent local option sales tax topic. The survey is accessible through the county website: visit www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click the banner for the survey. More information can be found on the one percent local option sales tax by clicking the "1% Local Option Sales Tax" link in the Hot Topics list on the left. This survey will be available until Feb. 28.

New concession buildings

The Harold Avenue Recreation Center has two new park concession buildings with restrooms, one for baseball and one for softball. These new buildings replace two older buildings originally constructed in the early 1980s. After Hurricane Charley they needed extensive repairs. Concession cooking, storage, and serving areas, as well as public restrooms and other building systems were seriously deficient to meet today's needs of the leagues, players and spectators. The new buildings are being "green" certified by the Florida Green Building Coalition and are fully accessible to meet ADA standards.

The restrooms are operational and open for use. An opening date for the concession stands is planned for this week, on Feb. 22 at the Port Charlotte Little League and Miss Charlotte Fastpitch Softball League opening day ceremonies. These baseball and softball leagues run the concessions, which are open during regularly scheduled league practices, games and tournaments. Overall, the use of the concession stands is a team effort in that the county provides and maintains the buildings, and the leagues supply and install all of the necessary coolers, ranges and other equipment needed.

Two new stands are scheduled to be completed this year: one at the South County Regional Park (SCRCP) soccer complex and one at the Carmalita Park softball complex. These stands will be concessions only, since serviceable restrooms already exist at these parks. The SCRCP stand will be a new addition to the park. The Carmalita stand will replace the stand destroyed during Hurricane Charley. At that location the existing restrooms will be remodeled with modern fixtures and the entire pedestrian core area and three softball fields will be brought up to ADA accessible standards.

Audit brings recognition and praise

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) conducted its bi-annual audit of the human services department and the county fiscal division's administration of the federally funded Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Community Services Block Grant programs. During this four day audit, client files, administrative practices and fiscal reporting were reviewed. There were no substantial findings and the department was recognized for three exemplary practices. DEO provided special praise of the recently completed Community Needs Assessment. Staff has been asked to present the needs assessment process at the next Florida Community Action Agency conference. To download a

copy of the publication, visit the human services department web page on our county website www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov and click the "Community Needs Assessment 2013" link in the Publications list on the right.